

junction of the two rivers, is a very large one, and that with long range shells the houses would get the worst of it, and it would be poor consolation for the forts to hold their own while the city was burning behind them. To guard against this eventuality an extensive system of dynamite torpedoes are being arranged beneath the waters over which the gunboats must come to do anything effectual.

If it does, and the Servians are driven to the last extremities, they are said to meditate a vengeance which is too bad to speak of in temperate terms. Nevertheless, it is spoken of both by civil and military engineers, who discuss—guardedly, certainly—the means of doing it, the amount it would cost, the time it would take, and the number of tons of dynamite it would require. To explain what I mean I must digress for a few lines. Every one knows what a broad, deep and rapid river the Danube is, but it concentrates all its force and fury below the cataracts at a pass called the Iron Gates. Here, opposite the small village of Ticheviztha, it narrows from a width of a mile to about 180 yards wide, and with a depth, as far as can be ascertained from the violence of the current, of from 800 to 1 000 fathoms. The mountains on either side of this are very lofty—nearly 5,000 feet high—but that on the Austrian side is 1,000 feet higher, and on the side is nearly sheer for about 3,000 feet above the torrent. In fact, where it is not perpendicular it rather overhangs the water. When there is a very low Danube the sharp, craggy points of subaqueous rocks begin to show themselves above the water, and between these the passage is most narrow, winding and shallow, and, in fact, can only be passed by steamers, especially built for the purpose, of light draught of water, four paddle wheels, and immense power. At the break up of last winter the floating ice jammed among these crags, the waters backed up, laying all the Banat and vast tracts of Hungary under water. Such a deluge was never known, and whether it was the hideous ruin which this caused first put it into the heads of the insurgents I do not know—all I do know is, that the blowing up of the precipice of Mount Scrieber (the Austrian side) would bring down many millions of tons of rock across the Iron Gates, and long before the obstruction could be removed a vast part of Eastern Europe would be turned into an inland lake."

Such will be the desperate character of the war, and there can scarcely be any doubt but that civilized Europe must soon interfere and put a stop to the contest by removing its cause—the Ottoman Power.

The Riot at Gibraltar.

The Cadiz correspondent of the Times writes, under date June 9th: "By telegrams and despatches received from Gibraltar between German sailors of the four ironclads and the boatmen of Gibraltar seems to have been begun by the Germans, who had been drinking. The Gibraltar Guardian says: 'The German sailors of the four ironclads, now lying in the harbor, began the quarrel, having purposely assaulted some young ladies waiting on the wharf for the return of the pleasure seekers from the bull fight of Algeciras. This insult put up the blood of the Gibraltar men, who collared the assailants. Then, knives in hand, all the German sailors attacked the Gibraltar men, and they defended themselves with sticks, oars, and flagstaffs, and all they could lay hands upon. A hundred were thrown

down, hustled, beaten, trod upon. The bugle sounded, and into the midst of the rioters came the picket of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers. They were powerless, so were the town police, and although they fixed bayonets, they had to summon others of the same regiment. The soldiers, finding the complaints of the Gibraltar people were just took their part, forced the Germans to embark in their boats and closed the gates. Many of the German sailors were badly wounded. These sailors of Bismark think themselves the lords of the whole world. They are not so. They are all confined to their ships until the fleet of four ironclads leaves Gibraltar harbor, which will be to-night.' The feeling in Cadiz and Gibraltar is strong against the Germans, as it is said, I do not know with what truth, that the German officers could not or would not control their men."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. The real name of the writer must invariably accompany each communication to insure insertion, but not necessarily for publication.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I have often thought it my duty to direct attention to many of the weak points in our militia system, hoping thereby to effect reforms—but when I come to consider how year after year able General officers have published reports, which neither Ministers nor Members of Parliament ever take the trouble to read—judging by results—I cannot hope to effect much.

Still it drives a good soldier wild, to see the present state of most of the beautiful and expensive saddlery that was given only a few years ago to the Dominion Cavalry; that belonging to three troops has just come under my notice, and it is but a sample of too many—nummas and panels, completely destroyed and moth-eaten—straps and buckles lost—bridles and head stalls broken and useless—bits black with rust and thrown away in a box; so that when troop appears on parade they use all sorts of bridles, even some with winkers—collar chains only fit to sell for old iron—swords and carbines not much better.

Now Sir, a duly qualified inspecting officer of Cavalry would remedy all this, and teach commanding officers of troops how to preserve such valuable equipment—therefore until the Government are prepared to adopt a more soldierly system in regard to all that pertains to Militia matters, recommend the present annual drill to be given up altogether for it is more than a "harmless joke."

ATTENTION.

OBITUARY.

We regret to learn that a fatal accident through *Somnambulism* took place a few days since in Montreal, involving the death of a Mr. HENRY ORGAN, of Buckingham, England, and son-in-law of Colonel Lovelace, Volunteer Cavalry, &c. &c. The deceased gentleman in his sleep walked out of a two story window, breaking his back and his legs in the fall, expiring in great agony one day after. He leaves a widow and five young children to deplore his untimely fate.

RUSSIA'S MOVEMENTS, if the meagre news received is reliable, appear to have a serious aspect. Late reports represented her as assembling a large number of troops in Bessarabia, which adjoins Turkey on the north east; and now it is reported that 50,000 Russian troops, including 12,000 Cossacks, are approaching Rukowina, in Galicia, which is a division of Austrian Poland, immediately north of Moldavia, in Turkey. Austria's position is painfully undefined, but she has fallen out on a small scale with Servia, owing to the firing into a steamer on the Danube, probably supposed to be a Turkish one. The Montenegrins are in full march into the Herzegovina, and the Moslem Turks there are acting like rats in a leaky ship. The Albanians to the south of Montenegro, who are mostly Greeks, refuse to fight for Turkey.

Servia has made an ample apology to Austria for the firing into one of her steamers, which Austria has accepted.

PARIS, July 5.—A correspondent of the *Universelle* states that the Khedive has furnished the Porte 12,000 men. All attempts of the Turkish army to cross the frontier have been victoriously repulsed.

THE HAGUE, July 5.—The Governor of the Dutch East Indies, telegraphs confirming the report of the loss of the steamer *Lieut. General Kroesen*, in the Straits of Sunda. Two hundred and thirty persons were drowned.

THE INDIAN WAR.—The special correspondent of the *Helena, Montana Herald* writes: Muggins Taylor, a scout for General Gibbon, got here last night direct from Little Horn River. General Custer found an Indian camp of 2,000 lodges on Little Horn, and immediately attacked the camp. Custer took five companies and charged the thickest portion; in camp nothing is known of the operations of this detachment only as they trace it; by the dead, Major Reno commanded the other companies and attacked the lower portion of the camp. The Indians poured in a murderous fire from all directions, besides the greater portion fought on horseback. Custer, his two brothers, nephew and brother-in-law were all killed, and not one of his detachment escaped; 207 men were buried in one place, and the killed are estimated at 500 with only 31 wounded. The Indians surrounded Reno's command, and held them one day in the hills, cut off from water, until Gibbin's command came in sight, when they broke camp in the night and left. The Seventh fought like eagles, and were overcome by mere brute force. The Indian loss cannot be estimated as they have carried off most of their killed. The Indians got all the arms of the killed soldiers. There were seventeen commissioned officers killed. The whole Custer family died at the head of their column. The exact loss is not known, as both adjutants and sergeant majors were killed. The Indian camp was from 3 to 4 miles long, and was 20 miles up Little Horn, from its mouth. The above was confirmed by letters, which say Custer met a fearful disaster. Lieut. Crittenden, a son of Gen. Crittenden, is among the killed.

FLOODS AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A terrific storm prevailed over the northern part of Iowa, Tuesday night on the line of the Illinois Central and Davenport and St. Paul and Midland Railroads, Bridges and embankments on the Illinois Central were washed out, and there are no trains on either to-day. The village of Rockdale was washed out, last night, and 44 persons drowned.

TORNADO.—On Tuesday night a terrible tornado passed through South Burlington, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell were killed, instantly while lying in bed. Mr. Dyke was instantly killed, and the body found in the wreck of the dwelling, which was levelled to the ground. Numerous others were more or less injured.